Hello all,

I'm writing about resolution HB 5286 An Act Concerning the Development of a New Preservice Performance Assessment For Teacher Preparation Program.

As an ARC (Alternate Route to Certification) student I had to do edTPA. This was the first year it had to be done for ARC, and it was mandatory, although the score obtained was not taken into account for certification. The ARC program is an intensive program on its own, with Friday evening classes and all-day Saturday classes, let alone the student-teaching part.

At the time I did what many other teacher candidates do if given the chance, I worked as a teacher at Hartford Public Schools under a DSAP (Durational Shortage Area Permit) while doing ARC. This was one of the most stressful times of my life and to add to this, we were told that in order to obtain our certification we had to do a major project called edTPA, which took over 30 hours of work time from my already busy schedule.

edTPA was seen by many as merely a formality, or a checklist item, but that took away from precious time that I could have used to better my teaching practice. I personally do not remember feeling that edTPA was a necessary element to grow my teaching practice.

 I like the idea of having a major project, but edTPA seemed to be full of non-negotiables that just made the process more about the product and not so much about the experience of creating the product, which is what I think should be the value of a project in a teacher preparation program. I do think edTPA requirements should change.

Thank you for your time,

Rony D. Urtecho